THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) All benefits in accordance with the Central Government orders/instructions issued from time to time are given to the women employees including nurses at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The maternity benefits granted to women employees including nurses in AIIMS & other Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are leave for a period not exceeding 6 weeks provided the application of leave is supported by a medical certificate.

(c) The AIIMS has informed that section 9 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 read with Rule 43(2) of the CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972 are being implemented at the Institute.

Storing of Siruthondanayanar Idol

1212. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Siruthondanayanar, the Bronze idol was unearthed by the Archaeological Survey of India from Thanjavur district while renovating the old and dilapidated Airavalleswarar temple, Darasuram; and

(b) if so, whether exactly now the said rare idol is being stored and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bronze idol of Siruthondanayanar unearthed by the Archaeological Survey of India during the scientific clearance in the enclosure of the Airavatheswara temple at Darasuram, Distt. Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu is at present on temporary display in the National Museum, New Delhi as a part of the exhibition titled "Archaeological Discoveries of the Decade".

Appropriation of rare idols

1213. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any authority to appropriate rare idols unearthed by the Archaeological Survey of India or any such agencies or by private efforts, thereby depriving the local area of its past heritage; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) As per provisions of Section 19 of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, the Central Government has been vested with the power to compulsorily acquire antiquities and art treasures, if it is of the opinion that it is desirable to preserve any antiquity or art treasure in a public place and that Government may make an Order for the compulsory acquisition of such antiquities or art treasures. As regards the antiquities unearthed by the Archaeological Survey of India, being a Central Government Agency, they become Central Government Property.

However, the Central Government has made adequate provision to control the movement of antiquities under Sections 25 and 26 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 to preserve the cultural Heritage of the locality to which it belongs.